

**COMPLAINT IS FILED**

72 HOURS

### 72-HOUR HEARING (Probable Cause Hearing)

- Court decides if a child is in danger AND where a child should stay until the adjudicatory hearing.
- After the 72-hour Hearing, a deprivation petition has to be filed, or the complaint will be dismissed.
  - If the child is placed in state custody, a petition must be filed within 5 days.
  - If the child is not placed in state custody, a petition must be filed within 30 days.

5 or 30 DAYS

### PETITION IS FILED

- If the child is in state custody, the Court will hold an ADJUDICATORY HEARING within 10 days.
- If the child is not in state custody, the Court will hold an ADJUDICATORY HEARING within 60 days.

10 or 60 DAYS

### ADJUDICATORY HEARING

- The judge listens to testimony and other evidence, decides the facts of the case and makes a ruling about whether or not the child is deprived.
- If the judge finds the child is not deprived the case will be dismissed.
- If the judge finds that a child is deprived, a DISPOSITION HEARING will be held either immediately or within a reasonable period of time

IF DEPRIVATION IS FOUND

### DISPOSITION HEARING

- Court determines what kind of placement is in the best interests of the child. Placement may be with one of the following:
  - Child's Parent, Guardian, or other Custodian
  - DFACS (state custody / foster care)
- If the Court orders that DFACS shall have custody, that order is valid for 1 year starting from either the day the of the first judicial finding of abuse or the day the child was removed from the home.

### REVIEW HEARINGS

(every 30-90 days)

- JUDICIAL REVIEW HEARING – a hearing before the judge to review your progress on the case plan and determine how to proceed with your case.
- CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL – a group of trained community members who review your progress on the case plan and make recommendations to the judge about how the case should continue.
- ***It is in your best interest to attend ALL reviews.***

### PERMANENCY HEARING

(1 year after child is taken from the home, or if DFACS recommends non-reunification)

- The final plan for the child will be determined.
- This could include:
  - **Return child to parents**
  - **Terminate Parental Rights**
  - **Possibility of adoption**
  - **Extension of DFACS custody for 1 year**
  - **Grant custody to a relative until child is 18**

If you are a party to a deprivation proceeding,

**IT IS IN YOUR BEST INTEREST TO ATTEND ALL OF THE HEARINGS.**